

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 8

999 18TH STREET - SUITE 300

DENVER, CO 80202-2466

Phone 800-227-8917

<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: 8EPR-SR

July 17, 2002

Mr. Dan Mulqueen
1422 South York Street
Denver, CO 80210

Dear Mr. Mulqueen:

Thank you for your interest in the Vasquez Boulevard/ Interstate 70 (VB/I-70) Superfund project. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) carefully considered your request that we extend the public comment period for VB/I-70 Proposed Plan. The public comment period is scheduled to end on July 19, 2002. At a public meeting hosted by EPA on June 29, 2002, you requested an additional 45 days because EPA was not able to provide you with an English language version of the Proposed Plan at that time. Since then, I understand that a copy of the Proposed Plan has been mailed to you.

In considering your request, EPA took into account the following facts:

1. In August, 2001, the Clayton, Elyria, and Swansea Environmental Coalition requested a 30-day extension of the public comment period on the VB/I-70 Proposed Plan. In response, EPA extended the 30 day public comment period to 60 days.
2. While we acknowledge that EPA ran out of copies of the English language version of the Proposed Plan at the June 29 meeting, the availability of the Proposed Plan was announced in the Denver Post on May 19, 2002, in El Semanario on May 23, 2002, and in La Voz on May 22, 2002. These announcements included a web site where the Proposed Plan and supporting information can be accessed and reviewed as well as the locations of four information repositories where copies of the Proposed Plan are available as well as supporting information.
3. EPA established the comment period to allow sufficient time for residents, property owners, and other interested parties to prepare comments and also to ensure that a final cleanup decision could be made in time to support a request for cleanup funding early in the next fiscal year. The timing of the comment period is critical to putting this project in the best possible position to allow cleanup work to begin during the 2003 fiscal year.



Although we would like to extend the comment period as you requested, we believe adequate time has been provided and that an extension would not be in best interest of the VB/I-70 community since it would not put the project in the best possible position to receive funding for cleanup work next fiscal year. This was our overriding consideration in deciding not to grant your request for additional time to comment.

I look forward to receiving your comments on or before July 19, 2002. As you know, you may send them to me in writing or via email. EPA considers the close of the comment period the beginning of a discussion about how best to address the stated concerns and to incorporate community acceptance into a final decision on cleaning up the residential soils in the VB/I-70 Site

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Lavelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Bonnie Lavelle
Remedial Project Manager